



Long Beach Police Department

Crime Watch News

Crime Prevention Unit • 100 Long Beach Blvd • Long Beach, CA 90802

Anthony W. Batts
Chief of Police

John Bretza
Deputy Chief of Police
Patrol Bureau

Ted Hulsey
Deputy Chief of Police
Investigations Bureau

Tim Jackman
Deputy Chief of Police
Support Bureau

Braden Phillips
Manager
Administration Bureau

Karen Owens
Administrator
Community Relations Division

Kevin Coy
Sergeant
Crime Prevention Unit
Community Relations Division

COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION MEETING

Homeland Security Update

Wednesday, April 16, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.

Long Beach Water Department
1800 East Wardlow Road

Join us in a presentation by Disaster Management Manager, Casey Chel, to find out our city's level of commitment to Homeland Security. Our Crime Prevention meetings are open to everyone in the community. Please bring your friends and neighbors!

LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT TERRORISM INFORMATION

- **Emergency: 911 or 435-6711 for cell phones (For events occurring now)**
- **Terrorism Reporting Line: (562) 570-5593 (To report suspected terrorist activity)**
- **Terrorism Threat Advisory Line: (562) 570-5566 (To learn about current threat levels)**
- **City Information Line: (562) 570-5252**

The Long Beach Police Department is committed to our city's security. We are taking every precaution to keep you and your family safe. Please use the above numbers to report suspicious terrorist-related activity and to gain information on our current security threat level. In the event of a major city incident, tune into KKJZ 88.1FM for updated information.

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APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED OR NEGLECT . . .

Child abuse refers to an act committed by a parent, caregiver or person in a position of trust which is not accidental and which harms or threatens to harm a child's physical or mental health or welfare. There are four basic types of child abuse:



See "Child Abuse Awareness" - Page 2

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS

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Physical abuse - Non-accidental harm of a child, including excessive corporal punishment, assault, shaking, slapping, burning or scalding, kicking and strangling.

Neglect - Maltreatment or negligence that harms a child's health, welfare or safety. Physical, emotional, or educational neglect through such actions as: abandonment, refusal to seek treatment for illness, inadequate supervision, health hazards in the home, ignoring a child's need for contact, affirmation and stimulation, providing inadequate emotional nurturance, knowingly permitting chronic truancy, keeping a child home from school repeatedly without cause (depriving a child from education).

Sexual abuse - Sexual contact between a child or teenager and an adult or significantly older, more powerful person. In addition to sexual contact, abuse can include: inappropriate verbal stimulation of a child or teenager, taking or showing sexually explicit photographs of or to a child or teenager, exposing a child or teenager to pornography or adult sexual activity.

Emotional abuse - Verbal assault or emotional cruelty, as well as: close confinement, such as being shut in a closet, inadequate nurturance, extreme discipline.

According to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, each year there are more than two million reported cases of physical abuse or neglect in the United States. The National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse in the United States indicates that approximately 2,000 children per year die of child abuse and/or neglect. At least one in three girls and one in seven boys are sexually abused by the time they reach the age of 18. In the vast majority

of these cases, sexual abusers are known to their victims. More than half of all sexual abuse occurs within the family. Offenders come from all economic, ethnic, racial, and educational backgrounds and religious traditions. They may be respected members of the community, church or synagogue.



What should you do if you suspect child abuse? The goals of any effective response to suspected abuse are to:

- protect the child from further abuse
- stop the offender's abuse
- heal the victim's brokenness,
- and if possible, restore the family or,
- if not possible, to mourn the loss of family relationship.

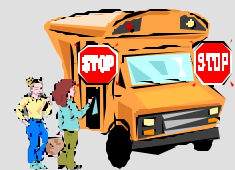
If a member of the community, who is not required by law to report child abuse, does not want to identify himself or herself, the report can be made anonymously to the following agencies:

- *The Long Beach Police Department's Child Abuse Detail (562) 570-7321*
- *Department of Children and Families Services at 1-800-540-4000.*

Motorists must stop for school buses with flashing lights

The Long Beach Police Department would like to remind motorists that they are required to stop for school buses when they have their red lights flashing and/or a stop signal arm displayed; according to California Vehicle Code, Section 22454(a).

Bus drivers that stop for the purpose of loading or unloading school children are required to activate their flashing red lights, and their stop signal arm if equipped with one. Motorists are not required to stop if they are on a divided street or one with two or more lanes in each direction when they come upon a bus from the opposite direction. A divider is defined as a raised median, or two rows of painted double yellow lines at least two feet apart. However, all drivers must stop if they are traveling the same direction as the bus.



DRIVERS WHO IGNORE THE LAW AND ARE CITED WILL BE FACED WITH A \$481.00 FINE.

Anyone who may have questions regarding this law should contact the Long Beach Police Department's Traffic Section at (562) 570-7209.



CHILD ABDUCTION AND KIDNAPPING PREVENTION

Source: National Center For Missing & Exploited Children

Each year, over 800,000 children are reported missing in the United States, and Long Beach is no exception. On March 13, 2003, at approximately 8:30 a.m., a 15 year-old Long Beach girl, was kidnapped and assaulted while on her way to school. The victim was walking in the area of Gundry Avenue, just south of Pacific Coast Highway when a male suspect came up from behind her and forced her into his vehicle. He then drove to the 1000 block of East 7th Street, pulled over, and began fondling her. The victim struggled with the suspect and was able to open the door and free herself before she was seriously injured. The victim immediately ran to the home of a nearby relative and the police were called.

This type of crime does not have to occur. There are simple precautions you can take to help safeguard your children:

- Teach your children to run away from danger, never towards it. Danger is anyone or anything that invades their personal space. Teach them to yell loudly. Their safety is more important than being polite. Teach your children that if they are ever followed by a car to turn around and run in the opposite direction to you, or a trusted adult.
- Never let your children go places alone. Always supervise your young children or make sure there is a trusted adult present to supervise them in your absence. Make sure your older children use the buddy system when they go out.
- Know where your children are and who they are with at all times. Remind your children never to take anything from or to assist a stranger who approaches them. Teach your child to run away as quickly as possible and to report the suspicious stranger to you or a trusted adult.
- Talk openly to your children about safety and encourage them to tell you, or a trusted adult if anyone or anything makes them feel frightened, confused, or uncomfortable. Discuss security issues with your children so that they will understand the need for precautions. Advise your older children about steps they can take to help safeguard themselves. Know your children's friends and their families. Pay attention to your children and listen to them. If you do not, there is always someone else who will.
- Practice what you teach by creating "what if" scenarios with your children to make sure they understand the safety message and can use it in a real situation.
- Be alert to and aware of your surroundings. Know the "escape routes" and plan what you would do in different emergencies. Practice "what if" scenarios, so you will be well prepared. Know the location of the nearest police station and hospital, and best routes to reach them.
- Consider varying your daily routines and habits. Do not take the same routes or go at the same time on your regular errands. If you take your children to school, change that route as well.
- Have a list of family members who could be contacted in case of emergency. Designate a family member or close associate who would be able to fill the role of advisor in case of emergency. Establish an out-of-state family contact to utilize in case of local area phone failure. Long distance, out-of-state calls will often be connected when local calls lines are overloaded.
- Report any suspicious persons or activities to the police. If you feel that you or your children have been targeted or are being stalked, report this information immediately to the police.



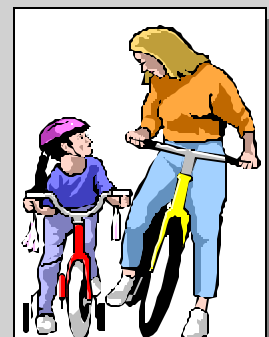
APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April

has been designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month by Presidential Proclamation since 1983. The observance seeks to raise awareness about child abuse prevention by educating individuals and communities with methods to help stop the abuse and neglect of children.

U.S. Department Of
Health & Human Services
www.hhs.gov

Additional
Informative websites:
www.missingkids.com
www.safestate.org
www.longbeachpd.org





NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SUCCESS STORIES

We are introducing a new column to our newsletter, entitled, "Neighborhood Watch Success Stories," and we want to hear from you. Let us know what keeps your group active, about your successful crime prevention efforts, about that crook that didn't get away with a crime in your neighborhood! Send your article to the Community Relations Division or e-mail it to limassa@ci.long-beach.ca.us. We'll do our best to include your article in our upcoming issues of "Crime Watch News."

Block Celebrates 10th Year Anniversary

We are celebrating our 10th anniversary as a Neighborhood Watch Team! Our success is accredited to having wonderful neighbors with open lines of communication with one another.

Fifty percent of our neighborhood is composed of rental properties, which means we have had many new families join our neighborhood in the recent past. We felt it important to educate them and reacquaint ourselves with the Police Department's current Neighborhood Watch Program. We recently completed the program's four core meetings and found them to be very informative and definitely worth our time.

We like to stress that our policy of Neighborhood Watch is to communicate and educate everyone in the neighborhood. In keeping with this mission, we promptly greet new tenants and introduce them to Neighborhood Watch. We offer them referral lists for the city and local numbers, numbers for repair places, tree trimmers and other useful numbers that might prove beneficial for them. We utilize a phone tree and e-mail to keep our community posted about upcoming events as well as what is going on in our neighborhood. I always try to stress that Neighborhood Watch is our best tool to prevent crime and am pleased to say that I live in a neighborhood where we are very organized and informed about the happenings in our community.

If you haven't already done so, I encourage you get involved in your community and either join or start a Neighborhood Watch Group on your block.

Sharman Wallace, Block Captain, Grand Avenue – 1600 Block Neighborhood Watch Group

Long Beach Police Department
Community Relations Division
100 Long Beach Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90802